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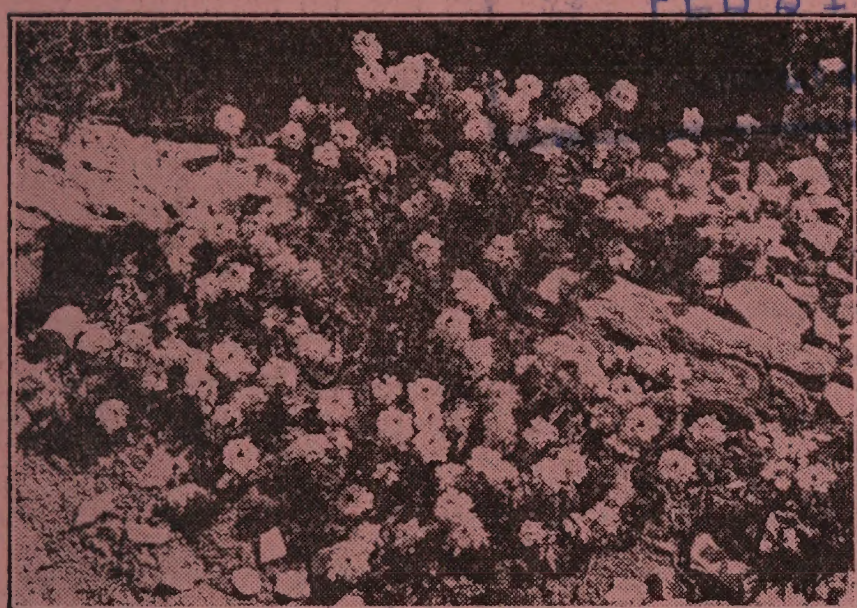
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# BEAUTIFUL NATIVE PLANTS

FROM THE  
HIGH PLAINS, BADLANDS  
AND BLACK HILLS

1940

RECEIVED  
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U. S. Department of Agriculture



*Verbena bipinnatifida*

This is the flower of clear and brilliant blue lilac color that "tourists rave" about, seeing it in masses at the roadside in dry, hard soil. It is in heavy production from late May until steady freezing forces a halt.

In the garden, foliage and flowers are at all times neat. The height does not exceed 8" though the lengthening stems spread to 24. Nodes of stems that touch the ground strike root in late season, and the new crowns thus formed pass the winter with their own litter or a bit of snow and relatively dry footing, while the old, exhausted center is apt to perish. Seedlings, however, from early sowing out of doors, start flowering by the end of June.

## CLAUDE A. BARR

PRAIRIE GEM RANCH

Smithwick, South Dakota



## INTRODUCTORY

There is more than a chance discrimination between native plants which we are inclined to call "wild flower" types and those known as alpine and rock plants. The latter are distinctly low growing, brilliantly colorful and lavish in blossom production.

Plants of the Great Plains, the high, dry descent eastward from the base of the Rockies in the United States and Canada to the true prairie, are, in the main, rock plants, or of life habits that give them "equal footing."

In the following lists Prairie Gem Ranch presents to the gardening public many of the more choice plants of the region, the fruits of thousands of miles of exploration, and some of the results of selection and years of propagation—all at "distinctly ordinary" prices.

As to culture, if a few are as exacting in the matter of drainage as the most aloof alpine, a place in the sun and no permanent wet at the roots will satisfy nearly all. A few are for lean loam, sand, and gravel or limestone chips.

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Requests for rare plants and others not listed are welcome and will have our best attention.

Delivery is prepaid on all plants or seeds.

In so far as practicable, plant names used accord with HORTUS, the standard of the American Rock Garden Society.

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**Actinea (Tetraneuris) simplex** Pure shining gold, Gaillardia type, 4 to 8" above narrow basal leaves; May-July. Beautiful silvery autumn rosettes. 20c; doz. \$2.00.

**Anemone patens nutt. (Pulsatilla hirsutissima)** "A starlet of hope with a center of joy—" (Badger Clark). Pasque Flower, state flower of South Dakota. Large, six-pointed, satiny lavender; March-May. 35c; doz. \$3.50.

**Antennaria aprica** Pussy-toes, Ladies' Tobacco, etc. Broad little leaves of silvery olive in inch-high, evergreen mats; dainty ground-cover of perfect habit. 20c; doz. \$2.00.

**A. campestris** Leaves an inch long, rich deep green, white underneath. 25c; doz. \$2.50.

**A. microphylla** Broadly spatulate, tiny leaves of distinct pattern retain their clear bluish silver color through winter. White furry heads at 8". 35c; doz. \$3.00.

**A. obovata** Like aprica but on larger scale, valuable for variety. 20c; doz. \$1.50.

**Artemisia frigida** A low and tufted, feathery, silvery and fragrant Sage. Arching spikes of tiny yellowish bells, August. 25c; 3, 65c.

**Asclepias pumila** A Milkweed but 4 to 8" high; closely set linear leaves; abundant upright umbels, creamy white in the type; good. We have also a light pink. Either, 25c; 3, 50c.



**Aster kumleini** Our select Prairie Gem Blue challenges comparison with any Aster of its color and height. Sheets of blue and gold, September; 12". Stock low. 40c each.

**A. kumleini** Selected forms in rose pink and lacy rayed silver blue. 25c; doz. \$2.00.

**A. meritus** Rare species with broad flat-topped corymbs of pinkish violet, in July; 8 to 12". A customer says, "One of the choicest plants in my rock garden." 40c; 3, \$1.00.

**A. ptarmicoides (Unamia alba)** Beautiful all-white flowers, centers cream. not yellow. About 12"; July-September. 30c; 3, 75c.

See also **Chrysopsis** and **Sideranthus**, Aster-like golden flowers of autumn.

**Astragalus goniatus** Lovely traveler, met with glad surprise. Festive bonnets of bright lavender touched with purple, June-August; 4 to 8" high. Confine if necessary. 40c; doz. \$3.50.

Other **Astragali** are found under **Homalobus**, **Orophaca**, **Oxytropis**.

**Campanula petiolata** Western Harebell. Large flaring bells, lavender to blue purple. Free blooming, June-September; 8 to 12". 30c; 3, 85c.

**Cerastium strictum** Flowers like snow, to 8", from a low spreading mat of rich green. May-July. Nearly evergreen; shade. 15c; doz. \$1.00.

**Chrysopsis villosa** Golden Aster. Massed beauty in richest tone, August, September; 12". Best effect, shear to 4" in June. 30c; 3, 75c.

**Clematis (Viorna) scotti** Leatherflower. Blue to purple, nodding urn Clematis; May or June; 10". Silky tawny seed plumes; frosty leaves. Sun or shade, relative dryness. 50c; 3, \$1.25.

**C. (Atragene) tenuiloba** Fairies Bower. Rare, and of a charm not conveyed in words, these large, half open, nodding, airy purple blossoms bear the very spirit of the high Limestone of the Black Hills. May, June; 6 to 10". Spreads slowly; rich soil, not too dry. \$1 each.

**Dalea (Parosela) enneandra** Airy, swaying racemes, silver and white, 24" or more up, on slender arching stems. Long season effect, June-August. 30c; 3, 75c.

**Delphineum bicolor** Flowers of deep purple-blue velvet; branching 12" plant; June. Dormant in summer. Rich soil, sun or shade. "Satisfactory and beautiful." 30c; 3, 75c.

**Dodecatheon pauciflorum** Shooting Star. Bears its brilliant rockets of bright rose and gold in May and June, at 4 to 8". Likes rich soil, any location. 40c; 3, \$1.00; doz. \$3.50.



**Echinacea angustifolia** The lower Cone Flower, a great pink—not purple—Daisy, with a prickly mahogany center. Strikingly beautiful, ever popular. 10 to 14"; July. 30c; 3, 75c.

**Erigeron caespitosus** Plentiful little Daisies of purest white, July; 8 to 10". 30c; 3, 75c.

**E. canus** Of the same proportions, equally good. White or tinted lavender; June. 30c, 3, 75c.

**E. commixtus** This one is a very dainty evergreen groundcover, with a surge of white and gold Daisies in June and sparingly later. Mat 2" high, flowers 6 or 7". Rare. 40c; doz. \$2.50.

**E. flagellaris** Whiplash Daisy. Similar to commixtus and nearly as appealing in the wild, in cultivation it becomes rather an invasive roudy. Easily uprooted or clipped. 25c each.

**E. glabellus** Lavender or white, several flowers to the stem; 8 to 12". Clump of low, glossy evergreen leaves. 35c; 3, 90c.

**Eriogonum flavum** Distinct and beautiful plant of correct habit. Green velvet leaves, lined white, in a close mat; large umbels of yellow, fuzzy with stamens; 12", June. 50c; 3, \$1.25.

**Eurotia lanata** Winter Fat; White Sage. Not evergreen but retains its gray leaves. Suitable bushlet for the Cactus or desert garden; 12"; white puffs of seed clusters, autumn. 35c.

**Galium boreale** Ladies' Bedstraw. Tiny white flowers in vertical spires, June, July. Beautiful, confined among rocks. Rich shade. 20c.

**Gilia congesta** Short plump spikes of tiny white, gold centered flowers from a tuft of dark grassy leaves. **Introduction.** 35c; 3, 90c.

**Gutierrezia sarothrae** Indian Broom Plant. Hemispheres of vivid green, 10 to 12" high, turn to glowing gold, September. 35c; 3, 65c.

**Hedeoma campora** A Pennyroyal in a trim 8" rounded bushlet, flushed with pink-lavender blossoms from June on. Delectable and satisfying fragrance. 40c; 3, \$1.00.

**Homalobus caespitosus** An irresistable 2" cushion, prickly, faintly frosty, in May a mound of purple or violet little "Clover" blossoms with white-tipped wings. Small plants are readily moved into half limestone chips, half clay loam. 30c; doz. \$3.00.

**Lathyrus incanus** Sand Pea. Otherwise like the next, this is softly hairy. Conspicuous and beautiful clusters of two to seven, rose in the banner, pale pink to white in the wings. May; 4 to 10". 25c; doz. \$2.00.

**L. ornatus** Has possibly more red tone, and less of lavender. An indispensable though a spreader. Prefers sandy soil. 30c; doz. \$2.50.

**Lesquerella spatulata** Bladder-pod. Dainty and festive in brightest yellow, May to July.



Height 4 to 5", spread to 10. Excellent frosty winter rosettes. 20c; 3, 50c.

**Leucocrinum montanum** Sand Lily. In April and May a bountiful succession of stemless little Lilies of waxy white with stamens of gold, from a tuft of grassy leaves; delightful fragrance. Cover the sprangle of fleshy roots 2", in fine gravel and loam. 35c; doz. \$3.00.

**Liatris ligulistylis** Blazing Star. Largest heads of any Liatris, an inch wide and relatively few, a lovely clear purple; July. 18", taller in cultivation. 40c; 3, \$1.00.

**L. punctata** Dwarf Liatris. Fluffy spikes of fine transparent purple, August. 8 to 14". Dark green, narrow basal leaves. 30c; 3, 75c.

**Lithophragma parviflora** Woodland Star. Three-fourths inch, slashed stars of purest white, in clusters, May, June; then dormant. 4 to 12"; rich soil, sun or shade. 3, 35c; doz. \$1.25.

**Lithospermum linearifolium**. Puccoon. Glowing soft yellow ruffled trumpets, half-inch wide, May. 6 to 12". Always welcome. 35c; 3, 75c.

**Malvastrum coccineum** Flame Mallow. Blossoms of flame-scarlet, inch-wide, in short spires; deeply cut grayish leaves; June and later. 4 to 10". Lean gravelly soil. 25c; 3, 65c.

**Mertensia lanceolata** Very fine rock garden or border Bluebell, blooming with utmost freedom at 3" in April, 10" in late June. Bluish foliage. Dormant, mid-summer. 35c; 3, 85c.

**Nothocalais cuspidata** Rich textured golden flowers of April and May, 2" wide, Chicory type. Few broad, wavy, white-margined leaves at ground. Dormant, summer. 40c; 3, \$1.00.

**Oenothera (Pachylophus) caespitosus** Gumbo or Cowboy Lily. Snowy, 4" wide Evening Primroses, May to August; fragrant, day-blooming. Height less than 6"; glossy lance leaves spread 12". Sand, loam, lime; drainage. 25c; 3, 65c.

**Oe. (Anogra) cinerea** Beautiful white two-inch flowers, above ashy leaves; 12"; long season. Sand; and room for roaming roots! 35c each.

**Oe. (Anogra) coronopifolia** White flowers of distinct charm, in endless profusion, 2" wide or less, facing the sun; leaves finely divided, dark green. Confine roots! 35c each.

**Oe. (Galpinsia) lavandulaefolia** Rich yellow crinkly, upright blossoms. Open all day and from June to frost. Tiny grayish leaves, stems nearly prostrate. Of perfect bearing in any company. A jewel. 40c; 3, \$1.00.

**Oe. (Meriolix) serrulata** A 10" bushlet with a wonderful show of bright lemon yellow blossoms from May to August. 30c; 3, 75c.

(We are unable to offer the larger flowered form this year. Seeds of this are 50c per pkt.)



**Oreocarya glomerata** Prairie Candle. Spikes of trim white Forget-me-nots, six weeks, mainly June. Often short-lived, clip back when through flowering. 10 to 14". 20c; 3, 50c.

**Orophaca caespitosa** A snow of stemless Pea blossoms on a cushion of silvery tri-parted leaves, April, May. For lime chips, clay, sand. Companion to Homalobus. 30c; 3, 75c.

**O. tridactylica** Very pleasing rose-lavender flowerlets on a similar elfin cushion, May. Culture, same. Extremely rare. 50c; 3, \$1.20.

**Oxytropis lamberti** Loco. Silvery pinnate leaves at the ground, spectacular plumes of rich toned Pea blossoms, to 12"; June. Many shades, red purple to blue. 30c; doz. \$2.50.

**Parosela**, see **Dalea**.

**Pentstemon albidus** Close spires of large white trumpets, May, June. 14". 20c; 3, 50c.

**P. angustifolius** Justly popular and easily grown in sand or any sandy medium that will provide drainage. A wonderful, brilliant azure; narrow glaucous leaves. 25c; 3, 65c.

**P. crandalli** A 2" evergreen mat-former with a veil of up-turned bells of blue, in June. This innovation from the Rockies has prospered in light shade and relative dryness. 50c each.

**P. eriantherus** Large, warm lavender trumpets with gold-hairy tongues, in handsome spires, June; 8 to 12". Broad dark leaves. Lime, clay, sand and sun, best drainage. 25c; 3, 65c.

**P. glaber** A fine dark blue, often touched with purple; June, July, and again if cut back. Usually 18 or 20". Very adaptable. 30c; 3, 85c.

**P. gracilis** Graceful spikes of small amethyst blossoms, to 12", June, July. Sun or shade, some richness. 30c; 3, 75c.

**Petalostemon purpureus** Prairie Clover. Long cones of purple-red gay with orange anthers, fragrant; June, July. Arching stems, 12 to 15", sparse, tiny leaves. Dry, sandy. 30c; 3, 75c.

**P. villosus** Hairy Prairie Clover. Plump cones of soft silvery rose and silvery green; July to September; very decorative 10" plant of velvety gray green. Deep sand. 35c; 3, 90c.

**Phlox alyssifolia** Extra large blossoms of soft lavender pink to bright pink, masses of color in May and June. Foliage distinct, white-edged. 3 to 5". Good drainage, shade first season; spreads slowly. Fine fragrance. 30c; 3, 80c.

**P. andicola** The large white blossomed, needle leaved Phlox of the high prairies; 4". Long season, April through June. 20c; doz. \$2.00. Choicest selection, largest blossomed, 50c ea.

**P. hoodi** Mossy green mats, snowed over with lovely little blossoms, April or May; 2". Slow spreading, at length making large mats in gravel or rocks. Shade, first year. 30c; doz. \$2.50.



**Potentilla divisa** Astonishing beauty in sunlit yellow on a tuft of silver leaves, early May. Height 3", spread 10. Greener in summer. 50c.

**Senecio purshianus** Plant a permanent, attractive gray; 8 or 9" stems support a golden cloud of blossoms, June. New. 35c; 3, 90c.

**Sideranthus spinulosus** Masses of inch-wide Asters of light gold, September, October. Low branching type, height 6"; excellent finely divided frosty leaves. 30c; 3, 75c.

**Smilacina stellata** A False Solomon's Seal. Terminal racemes of small white stars, above handsome glossy leaves. Dense groundcover for dry shade. 8 to 18". 35c; doz., \$1.80.

**Solidago mollis** Fine, 8 to 12" Goldenrod, very bright, roundish heads, September. Broad grayish leaves. Travels slowly. 25c; 3, 65c.

**S. trinervata** Undoubtedly one of the loveliest, with broad spires, usually 16" or less, and good low foliage. Non-traveler. 40c; 3, \$1.00.

**Thermopsis rhombifolia** Most dwarf Golden Pea, 10", often less. Broad, packed racemes of glowing yellow, May. Forms colonies. Unusual and beautiful. 30c; 3, 75c.

**Townsendia exscapa** Easter Daisy. Huge pink flowers on a 2" tuft of narrow, slightly silvery evergreen leaves, April, May. A lovely gem, for which prosperity is fatal. Give sun, sand, rocks, a taste of humus. 35c; 3, 85c.

**T. sericea** A smiling and independent little sister, coming in early April. White or delicate pink Daisies, leaves gray. 35c; 3, 85c.

**Tradescantia bracteata** Rainbow Spiderwort. Most dwarf, and produces amazingly, begins at 4" in June, continues to 10, or more. Sky blue, dark blue, lavender, purple, heliotrope, rose, and others, in mixture. 20c; doz. \$2.00.  
New large Appleblossom pink, 60c each.

**T. occidentalis** Western Spiderwort. Flowers blue, long season, 12"; plant glaucous. 20c.

**Verbena bipinnatifida** Photo and description on cover. Plants 30c; 3, 75c; seeds, pkt. 25c.

**Viola adunca** A happy little blue one, for part shade. 30c; 3, 75c.

**V. nephrophylla** A lovely big blue, liking much moisture in spring. 30c; 3, 75c.

**V. nuttalli** The brilliant yellow, low violet of the dry open prairies. Heavy producer, April through May. 30c; 3, 50c; doz. \$1.80.

**V. rugulosa** White with violet pencilings; 6 to 12". Slowly spreading groundcover, part shade, rich soil. 30c; 3, 75c.

**V. vallicola** Very like nuttalli, but for rich soil, sun or shade. 30c; 3, 75c.



## BULBS—strictly for Fall Delivery

**Allium cernuum** Tall nodding umbels of light shell pink, July; low, glaucous all season foliage. Nice effect. 3, 25c; doz. 65c.

**A. textile** Very pretty when the clustered bulbs flaunt their broad umbels of white stars, at 8", in May. Dormant in summer. Doz. 35c.

**Calochortus apiculatus** Mariposa Tulip. Hairy blossoms of great charm in cream-white and soft yellow; 8"; June. This and macrocarpus, from Montana, have proven very adaptable. Doz. 90c.

**C. gunnisoni** Gunnison Mariposa. Native in the Black Hills. A very lovely white chalice with clusters of greenish hairs. 16", July. Few long grassy leaves. Doz. \$1.00; 100, \$7.50.

**C. macrocarpus** Sagebrush Mariposa. Wonderful flowers of blue lilac, yellow at the base, sometimes patched purple. 18"; July. Doz. \$1.20.

**C. nuttalli** Sego Lily. Native on the plains. Brilliant flower of white with gold and maroon. 12"; June. Leaves glaucous. Cultural advice for all bulbs on request. Doz. 85c; 100, \$6.50.

**Fritillaria atropurpurea** Bronze Fritillary. Inch to two inch, open, half nodding flowers of "curious elegance," mottled purple on yellowish ground. 8 to 12"; May. 20c; doz. \$1.50.

**Lilium umbellatum** Western Red Lily. One to three, enormous up-turned flowers of rich tawny scarlet; 8 to 16"; June. 20c; doz. \$2.00.

**Zygadenus gramineus** False Camas. Erect spires of massed creamy stars with golden stamens, 8 to 16"; June. Grass-like leaves. 3, 20c; doz. 60c.

## The hardiest CACTUS species

**Coryphantha (Mamillaria) vivipara** Ball, to 3" or more, showy carmine flowers; June. 30c; 3, 75c. Larger or group specimens of this and others at double the quotation.

**Echinocereus viridiflorus** Ball to cylindric; 2", rarely 4. Bright colored spines; glossy blossoms, June. 25c; 3, 60c.

**Neobesseya (Mamillaria) missouriensis** Ball, rarely attaining 2". Flowers glossy yellow or pale orange, fruits crimson. 35c; 3, 80c.

**Opuntia fragilis** Brittle Cactus. A pygmy Prickly Pear, with surprisingly large yellow flowers, June. 25c.

**O. polyacantha** Very spiny 4", or larger, sections; 4" silken flowers of yellow. 25c.

**O. rhodantha** Like polyacantha in the plant, the abundant flowers are of the most gorgeous carmine rose silk; June. 40c.

**O. humifusa** (not *tortispina*) Large dark green sections, often 5 to 6"; largest of silken yellow flowers with red filaments; latest to bloom, June. Ripe "pears" dark red. 25c.